August 21, 1970

LEGISLATIVE NOTES ON R.S. 3A:15-1 (Fiduciaries - invest mortgages at legal rate)

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The 6% interest ceiling in the usury statute was lifted in 1968. (See N.J.R.S. 31:1-1, amended by Ch.55, L.1968)

L.1969 - Chapt.289 - S695 Introduced April 10 by Dumont

> Not amended during passage No statement on the bill

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CHAPTER 259 LAWS OF N 1. 1969
APPROVED 1-15-70

### SENATE, No. 695

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

#### INTRODUCED APRIL 10, 1969

#### By Senator DUMONT

Referred to Committee on Revision and Amendment of Laws

An Act relating to investments by fiduciaries, and amending section 3A:15-1 of the New Jersey Statutes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
- 2 of New Jersey:
- 1 1. Section 3A:15-1 of the New Jersey Statutes is amended to
- 2 read as follows:
- 3 3A:15-1. A fiduciary whose duty it may be to loan or invest funds
- 4 instrusted to him in his fiduciary capacity may, without special
- 5 order of any court, invest and reinvest such funds, or any part
- 6 thereof, and the income derived therefrom, in any of the following:

#### UNITED STATES BONDS

- 7 a. Stocks or bonds or interest-bearing notes or obligations of or
- 8 guaranteed by the United States, or those for which the faith of the
- 9 United States is distinctly pledged to provide for the payment of
- 10 the principal and interest thereof;

#### STATE BONDS

- b. Bonds or interest-bearing notes or other obligations of or
- 12 guaranteed by this State or bonds authorized by its laws issued or
- 13 to be issued by any commission appointed pursuant to any law of
- 14 this State;

#### Bonds of Other States, Territories or

#### INSULAR POSSESSIONS

- 15 c. Bonds of any State in the Union or of any territory or insular
- 16 possession of the United States issued by authority of the Legis-
- 17 lature thereof, provided such State, territory or insular possession
- 18 has not, within 120 days next preceding such investment, defaulted
- 19 in the payment of any part of either principal or interest on any of
- 20 its bonds so issued;

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

#### MUNICIPAL OR SCHOOL BONDS

21d. Bonds or interest-bearing notes or obligations of any county, 22city, town, township, borough, village or other municipal or political 23 subdivision of this State issued under authority of a law of this State, or in bonds of any public school district, water district, union-24graded school district or regional board of education of this State, 2526or in refunding or renewal bonds of any such school district, water 27 district or board of education issued under authority of a law of this 28 State; provided, that at the time of making any such investment the 29 issuer of such bonds shall not be in default in the payment of any principal of or interest upon any bonds issued by it; 30

# Bonds of Counties, Municipalities and School Districts of Other States

31 e. Stocks, bonds, interest-bearing notes or obligations of any 32county, city, town, township, borough, village or school district of 33 any other State of the Union issued pursuant to the authority of any law of such State; provided, that such county, city, town, town-3435ship, borough, village or school district shall not have been in de-36 fault in the payment of any principal or interest on any of its stocks, bonds, interest-bearing notes or obligations within 120 days 3738 next preceding such investment; provided, that such county shall 39have a population of not less than 20,000 and that any such city, town, township, borough, village or school district shall have a 40 population of not less than 5,000; 41

#### REVENUE BONDS OF A GOVERNMENTAL UTILITY

f. Revenue bonds issued by a unit; provided, that the unit shall 42not, at the time of making the investment, be in default in the pay-43ment of principal or of interest on any of the revenue bonds issued 44 by it or in the performance of any of the covenants, agreements or 45 46 other provisions of the revenue bonds issued by it and shall not be 47 in default with respect to any of the provisions or requirements of the enabling legislation relative to such revenue bonds; provided 48 further, that such enabling legislation requires the unit to fix, main-49 tain and collect for the utility service furnished by the unit charges 50 adequate to pay the principal of and interest upon all revenue bonds 51. payable from such revenues and to provide for the operation and 52maintenance of the utility including provision for all repairs and 53 renewals, and all other charges and liens whatsoever payable from 54such revenues and to pledge a sufficient amount of such revenues for 55 the payment of principal of and interest on such revenue bonds

and other obligations of the unit having a lien or charge on such 57 58 revenues equal to or prior to the lien or charge of the revenue bonds 59 thereon. For the purposes of this paragraph: (1) "revenue bonds" 60 mean any bonds, including refunding bonds, or other interest-bear-61 ing obligations of a unit for the payment of the principal of and 62 interest on which the revenues derived from a utility owned or 63 operated by the unit which issued such bonds or obligations, are **64** pledged, or any such bonds or obligations additionally secured by a 65 pledge of the taxing power or other revenues of the unit; (2) "unit" 66 means a unit authorized to construct, own or operate a utility as 67 "utility" is hereinafter defined and includes any State, any political 68 subdivision of any State, any agency or instrumentality, corporate 69 or otherwise, of any State or of any political subdivision of any State, including but not by way of limitation any county, city, town, 70 township, village, authority, district, commission, agency or in-71 72strumentality of any State or of any political subdivision of any State, any commission, board, agency or other public body, corpo-73 rate or otherwise, created by any Act of Congress or by any State, 74 or pursuant to a compact between any 2 or more States or between 75any 2 or more political subdivisions, authorities, districts, commis-76 sions, agencies or instrumentalities of the same State, or between 77 any 2 or more political subdivisions, authorities, districts, commis-78 sions, agencies or instrumentalities of any 2 or more States, or any 79 corporation which is wholly owned, directly or indirectly by any 80 of the foregoing; (3) "State" means any of the United States and 81 82 any territory or insular possession of the United States; (4) "en-83 abling legislation" means any act or resolution of Congress or of the Legislature of any State or of the Legislatures of any States, 84 or any act, ordinance, resolution or other authorization by or of a 85 unit or by or of the governing body of any unit, authorizing or 86 87 providing for the issuance of revenue bonds, or any mortgage, trust deed, trust indenture, trust agreement or other instrument executed 88 as security for revenue bonds; (5) "utility" means any water-89 works system, gas system, electric light system, express or other 90 highway or highways, bridge, tunnel, ferry or other public utility 91 service or operation, or any combination of 2 or more of the fore-92going; (6) "system" means a supply or generating system, trans-93 mission or distribution system or any combination of supply, 94 generating, transmission or distribution systems, and all appur-95 96 tenances thereof;

## Bonds of the Dominion of Canada and Provinces

97 g. Bonds, notes or other interest-bearing obligations issued, 98 guaranteed, or assumed by the Dominion of Canada or by any of the 99 provinces of the Dominion of Canada;

#### RAILROAD BONDS AND EQUIPMENT OBLIGATIONS

h. (1) Bonds issued, guaranteed, or assumed by a railroad corpo-101 ration organized and existing under the laws of any State of the 102 United States or of the District of Columbia or of the United States, 103 the net earnings of which, including those of any predecessor com-104 pany or companies, before deduction of Federal income and profits 105 taxes have been sufficient, in any 3 of the 4 fiscal years next preced-106 ing the date of purchase, to cover annual requirements for fixed 107 charges, including contingent interest on income bonds, an average 108 of 1½ times; provided, that neither net earnings nor fixed charges 109 shall be deemed to include interest on bonds of its own or a sub-110 sidiary or lessor company repurchased or held as an investment by 111 such railroad corporation; or in bonds secured by mortgage upon a 112 railroad terminal, depot, tunnel or bridge used by 2 or more rail-113 road corporations which have jointly and severally guaranteed the 114 payment of principal and interest of such bonds or have otherwise 115 covenanted or agreed to pay the same, at least one of which guar-116 antors shall have net earnings as above; or in bonds of any railway 117 terminal or dock company of this State, secured by first mortgage 118 on terminal or dock property fronting on the Hudson river or New 119 York bay and having an-assessed value for the purpose of taxation 120 in excess of the amount of the entire issue of bonds, and used and 121 occupied as dock or terminal facilities by any railroad now operat-122 ing in this State; provided, that no part of the principal or interest 123 of such bonds is in default at the time of making the investment; h. (2) Mortgage bonds of a railroad corporation organized and 124 125 existing under the laws of any State of the United States or of the 126 District of Columbia or of the United States which are a first lien or 127 a collateral first lien on at least 3/3 of the mileage covered, of which 128 at least ½ said rail mileage shall be main line mileage, the earnings 129 of which allocable to such mileage are estimated to be on the aver-130 age at least 11/2 times interest charges on such bonds for any 3 of 131 the 4 fiscal years next preceding such investment; provided, that 132 such a railroad corporation shall not have been in default on any 133 part of the principal or interest of any of its bonds within 120 days 134 next preceding such investment, except that nonpayment of con-

- 135 tingent interest on income bonds, or nonpayment of interest on any
- 136 bonds on which the payment of interest is discretionary rather than
- 137 fixed, shall not constitute such a default. For the purpose of this
- 138 paragraph, should the earnings of a railroad not be susceptible to
- 139 exact allocation under the ordinary accounting methods of a rail-
- 140 road, information as to earnings may be obtained from any
- 141 financial, statistical, investment or other publication or service re-
- 142 ferred to in paragraph a. of section 3A:15-2 of this Title;
- h. (3) Equipment obligations or certificates of a railroad 143
- 144 corporation organized and existing under the laws of any State of
- 145 the United States or of the District of Columbia or of the United
- 146 States, secured by railroad equipment under equipment or car trust,
- 147 lease or conditional sale, or by first lien thereon;

#### BONDS SECURED BY FIRST MORTGAGE

- i. (1) Bonds or other obligations secured by first mortgages on
- 149 improved real estate in this State or in the States of New York or
- 150 Pennsylvania including improved farm lands therein; provided, the
- 151 amount of any such bond or other obligation and mortgage shall not
- 152 at the time of making the investment therein exceed 60% of the
- 153 estimated worth of the real estate covered by the mortgage and the
- 154 rate of interest shall not be more than [6%] the legal rate per
- 155 annum;
- i. (2) Whenever a fiduciary owns or has an expressed or implied 156
- 157 power of sale over any real estate, or any interest or interests
- 158 therein, however acquired, he may, in the exercise of discretion, sell
- 159 such real estate, or such interest or interests therein, upon such
- 160 terms and conditions as he shall deem to be for the best interests of
- 161 the estate or trust, and, as an incident to such sale, may invest in a
- 162 bond or other obligation secured by a purchase money mortgage,
- 163 which shall be a first lien upon the real estate or interest or interests
- 164 therein sold, in any amount up to but not exceeding 80% of the sale
- 165 price;

### Bonds Secured by Mortgage on Leasehold

#### OF CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATIONS

- j. Bonds secured by first mortgage on leasehold estates of real 167 estate in this State of camp meeting associations; provided, how-
- 168 ever, that such real estate, except as to such leasehold, is free and
- 169 clear of all liens and encumbrances of every kind and character
- 170 whatsoever; provided further, that such leasehold at the time of the
- 171 giving of said bond and mortgage has an unexpired term of not less

172 than 25 years, and is a lease of the entire interest in such real 173 estate, except the reversion thereof; provided further, that no in-174 vestment shall be made in excess of 60% of the appraised value of 175 such leasehold estate and the improvements thereon, which ap-176 praisement may be made by a committee of any savings bank, bank-177 ing institution, trust company or insurance company, and, in the 178 case of an individual, by 2 persons appointed by any such individual 179 for such purpose; provided further, that any such camp meeting as-180 sociation shall consent to the giving of such bond and mortgage, sub-181 ject, nevertheless, to all the conditions of the lease; provided 182 further, that no savings bank, banking institution, trust company or 183 insurance company, organized under the laws of this State, and no 184 person acting as fiduciary shall make loans on leasehold estates of 185 any such camp meeting association until the camp meeting associa-186 tion shall first have been approved for such purpose by the Com-187 missioner of Banking and Insurance of the State of New Jersey;

#### UTILITY BONDS

188 k. Bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of any public 189 utility corporation organized under the laws of any State of the 190 United States or of the District of Columbia or of the United States, 191 not less than 70% of the gross operating revenues of which, on a 192 consolidated basis, in the fiscal year next preceding such invest-193 ment, was derived from operation of one or more of the following 194 utility services, viz.: electric light or power, telephone or tele-195 graph, steam, manufactured gas, natural gas or a mixture of 196 manufactured and natural-gas; provided, that the gross operating 197 revenues of such corporation including predecessor and constituent 198 corporations on a consolidated basis shall have averaged not less 199 than \$2,000,000.00 per annum for the 3 fiscal years next preceding 200 such investment; provided further, that the net operating revenues 201 of such corporation on a consolidated basis, including those of 202 predecessor and constituent corporations, after all operating ex-203 penses and depreciation, but before State and Federal income and 204 profits taxes, available for fixed charges for rentals and interest, 205 shall have averaged annually for the 3 fiscal years next preceding 206 such investment not less than 1½ times the average annual require-207 ments during such period for such fixed charges, subsidiary pre-208 ferred stock dividends and minority interests excluding intercom-209 pany items;

#### WATER COMPANY BONDS

l. The bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued, 211 guaranteed, or assumed by a public utility corporation organized 212 and existing under the laws of any State of the United States or of 213 the District of Columbia or of the United States not less than 80% 214 of the revenues of which are, at the time of making such invest-215 ment, derived from the sale of water to consumers through a dis-216 tribution system owned or leased by it, or which such corporation 217 has otherwise covenanted or agreed to pay or cause to be paid, 218 whether by lease, indorsement, supplemental indenture or other-219 wise; provided, that the gross operating revenues of such corpora-220 tion, including those of predecessor and constituent corporations, 221 shall have averaged not less than \$500,000.00 per annum for the 5 222 fiscal years next preceding such investment; provided further, that 223 the net operating revenues of such corporation, including those of 224 predecessor and constituent corporations, after all operating ex-225 penses but before deducting charges for depreciation, renewals and 226 State and Federal income and profits taxes, available for fixed 227 charges for rentals and interest on all outstanding debt, shall have 228 averaged annually for the 3 fiscal years next preceding such in-229 vestment, not less than 11/2 times the average annual requirement 230 during such period for such fixed charges excluding intercompany 231 items;

#### UTILITY PREFERRED STOCKS

232 m. Preferred stocks issued, guaranteed, or assumed by a public 233 utility corporation organized and existing under the laws of any 234 State of the United States, or of the District of Columbia, or of the 235 United States, not less than 70% of the gross operating revenues of 236 which in the fiscal year next preceding such investment was derived 237 from the operation of one or more of the following utility services, 238 viz.: artificial gas, the sale of natural gas or of a mixture of 239 natural and artificial gas, steam, electric light or power, telephone. 240 telegraph, or water; provided, that such preferred stock shall be 241 cumulative as to dividends and shall not be preceded, as to claim on 242 dividends or assets of the corporation, in case of liquidation or 243 dissolution, by any other class of stock; provided further, that the 244 gross operating revenues on a consolidated basis of such corpora-245 tion, including those of predecessor and constituent corporations, 246 shall have averaged not less than \$5,000,000.00 per annum for the 247 3 fiscal years next preceding such investment; provided further, that the mortgage bonds and debentures of the corporation, if such are outstanding, shall be legal investments under this chapter; provided further, that the net operating revenues of the corporation on a consolidated basis including those of predecessor and constituent corporations after all operating expenses, taxes and depreciation shall have averaged annually for the 3 fiscal years next preceding such investment not less than 1½ times the average dividend requirements on such preferred stock, any other equally ranking preferred stock and for fixed charges for rentals and interest during such period, excluding intercompany items;

#### INDUSTRIAL BONDS AND NOTES

258n. The bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of any 259 industrial corporation organized under the laws of any of the 260 following: any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, 261 the United States, the Dominion of Canada or any province of the 262 Dominion of Canada; provided, that in each of the 3 fiscal years 263 next preceding such investment, the gross revenues on a consoli-264 dated basis of the said industrial corporation shall not have been 265 less than \$10,000,000.00; provided further, that the balance of in-266 come available for the payment of interest, after deducting all 267 operating expenses, depreciation and taxes, except State, Federal, 268 or provincial income and profits taxes, shall have averaged annually 269 for the 5 fiscal years next preceding such investment, twice the 270 average annual interest charges; provided further, either that the 271 current assets of said industrial corporation on a consolidated 272 basis, as shown by its latest published statement prior to the mak-273 ing of such investment, shall be at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the current 274 liabilities, or that the difference between the current assets and 275 current liabilities, represented as net current assets or net working 276 capital, as shown by such latest published statement, shall not be 277 less than the total indebtedness of the corporation, excluding any 278 indebtedness included among the current liabilities;

#### INDUSTRIAL PREFERRED STOCKS

o. Preferred stocks of any industrial corporation organized under the laws of any State of the United States or of the District of Columbia or of the United States; provided, that such preferred stock shall be cumulative as to dividends; provided further, that in each of the 3 fiscal years next preceding such investment, the gross revenues of the said industrial corporation on a consolidated basis shall not have been less than \$10,000,000.00; provided further, that

286 the balance of income available for the payment of interest and 287 dividends on such preferred stock and on any other preferred stock 288 ranking equally with or senior to such preferred stock together, 289 after deducting all operating expenses, depreciation and taxes, 290 shall have averaged annually for the 5 fiscal years next preceding 291 such investment,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the average annual interest charges and 292 preferred dividend requirements on such preferred stock and on all 293 senior and equally ranking preferred stocks; provided further, 294 either that the current assets of said industrial corporation on a 295 consolidated basis, as shown by its latest published statement prior 296 to the making of such investment, shall be at least 1½ times the 297 current liabilities or that the difference between the current assets 298 and current liabilities, represented as net current assets or net 299 working capital, as shown by such latest published statement, shall 300 not be less than the total indebtedness of the corporation and all 301 equally ranking and senior preferred stocks together, excluding any 302 indebtedness included among the current liabilities;

#### BONDS OF JOINT STOCK OR FEDERAL LAND BANK

p. Bonds issued by a joint stock land bank authorized to do 304 business in this State or by a Federal Land Bank, organized pur-305 suant to an Act of Congress entitled "An act to provide capital for 306 agricultural development, to create standard forms of investment 307 based upon farm mortgage, to equalize rates of interest upon farm 308 loans, to furnish a market for United States bonds, to create govern-309 ment depositaries and financial agents for the United States, and 310 for other purposes", approved July 17, 1916 (12 U. S. C. A. § 641 311 et seq.);

Consolidated bonds of the twelve Federal Land Banks issued 313 under and pursuant to the above-mentioned Act of Congress as now 314 or hereafter amended and known as the "Federal farm loan act";

### CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT AND SAVING ACCOUNTS

q. Interest-bearing time certificates of deposit of, or by making interest-bearing time deposits in a banking institution as defined in section 1 of chapter 67 of the laws of 1948 (The Banking Act of 1948), including, where the fiduciary is such a banking institution, such certificates of deposit of such banking institution itself or such deposits with itself in its banking department; provided, that the amount of each such certificate of deposit and the amount of each such deposit is insured in full, pursuant to any law of the United

323 States providing for the insurance of deposits in banking 324 institutions;

#### INVESTMENTS LEGAL FOR SAVINGS BANK

325 r. Any loans or securities which are or hereafter may be made 326 lawful investments under the statutes of this State, for savings 327 banks of this State;

#### SHARES OF SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

s. Shares of or accounts in savings and loan associations organized under the laws of this State, or Federal savings and loan
associations organized under the laws of the United States, the
principal office of which is located in New Jersey; provided, that
the accounts of the association whether State or Federally
association, pursuant to Title 4 of an Act of Congress entitled
whether are insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance
the accounts of the association whether State or Federally
association, pursuant to Title 4 of an Act of Congress entitled
the accounts of the Insurance and Insurance
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# Bonds Secured by Mortgage on Lands Acquired at Tax Sale

t. Bonds secured by mortgage, which shall be a first lien upon real estate, the title to which shall have been secured by the owner or prior owners through a certificate of tax sale foreclosed in the former Court of Chancery or the Superior Court of New Jersey; provided, the real estate shall be estimated to be worth at least twice the amount loaned, and the rate of interest is not less than 3% nor the greater than 6% the legal rate per annum;

#### TRUST MORTGAGES AND PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES

u. Shares or parts of bonds secured by mortgage or bonds secured by trust mortgage; and participation certificates or coupon bonds which entitle the holder to a proportionate share in a series or number of mortgages and bonds, or extensions or renewals thereof, deposited under a trust agreement with a trust company, bank or title guarantee corporation organized under the laws of this State, or a national bank authorized to do business in this State; provided, that the securities authorized in this paragraph u

357 shall be a first lien upon improved real estate and the amount 358 secured by the mortgages shall not, at the time the loan is made, 359 exceed 60% of the estimated worth of the real estate covered by the 360 respective mortgages and the rate of interest not less than three 361 nor greater than [6%] the legal rate per annum; and provided 362 further, that no share or part of such bonds and mortgages or bonds 363 secured by such trust mortgage shall be subordinate to any other 364 bonds issued thereunder or subordinate to any prior interest 365 therein; and provided further, that bonds and mortgages in parts 366 of which a fiduciary invests trust funds or, in the case of trust 367 mortgages, the trust mortgage, together with any guarantees of 368 payment, insurance policies and other instruments and evidences 369 of title relating thereto, shall be held for the benefit of the fiduciary 370 and any other persons interested therein, by a trust company, bank 371 or title guarantee corporation authorized to do business in this 372 State, or jointly by such a corporation and an individual who is a 373 citizen and bona fide resident of this State, and, in mortgages other 374 than trust mortgages, there shall be executed by such corporation 375 and delivered to each person who becomes interested in the bond 376 and mortgage, a certificate stating that the corporation, or corpora-377 tion and individual jointly, as the case may be, holds the instru-378 ments for the benefit of the fiduciary and any other persons therein 379 interested, among whom may be included the aforesaid corporation 380 or individual. A corporation or a corporation and an individual 381 jointly, issuing certificates pursuant to this paragraph, shall keep 382 a record in proper books of account of all such certificates issued 383 by it.

### WHEN SECTION NOT APPLICABLE; POWER OF COURT TO DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN

#### Nonlegal Securities

v. The provisions of this section shall not apply where any trust instrument, will, or court having jurisdiction of the matter, secially directs in what securities or investments the trust fund shall be invested. The court to which the fiduciary is accountable shall have the power specially to direct, from time to time, additional securities or investments in which he may invest. An investment made in accordance with such special directions shall be legal, and no fiduciary shall be liable for loss occasioned by his compliance therewith.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.